THE GENESEE FARMER.

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By Luther Tucker & Co.
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1834.

Root Culture.

We have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the President of the late *Agricultural Society of Pennsylvania;* and for our present number, select his remarks on the culture of esculent roots as a branch of Husbandry. His skill and experience as a practical farmer, entitle his opinions to great respect. We hope hereafter to obtain his method of preparing the ground, and of applying the manure, which may be of importance to us, although there is a greater difference of climate between us than three degrees of latitude on the same plain would indicate. We wish to learn every particular; for though we adopt the opinion of our friend W. G., that *good land* in *good order* is necessary for turneps, yet there is room enough, even on this basis, for considerable diversity of practice.

"I have noticed in the Genesee Farmer, an article from Judge BUEL on the culture of *Turneps.* His object was to show the profitableness of that culture. I cultivate a stiff calcareous loam; and in such a soil, long experience satisfies me that the turnep is the only root crop worth attention. It is raised at less expense of labor and manure than any other that I have tried. The Swedish turnep as Judge B. well remarks, will follow a grass crop. The white Norfolk turnep will follow several ploughed crops, such as flax, hemp, rye, or even potatoes. I have thought the soil was rather improved than impoverished by a crop of turneps. I have found them to make excellent beef and mutton.

"I have ceased to raise *Potatoes* for live stock. I think good farming, where a certain market is not contiguous, requires the potato crop to go but little beyond table use. I have found them to require heavy manuring; and put in what you may without another dressing, the ground will not be fit for laying down to grass. The boiled potato is a nourishing food for man and beast; but raw, it appears of little value except as an opening medicine. As food for man in high latitudes, they are the best substitute for bread; and will justify the culture because a given space will produce more, and they are a much surer resource than than frumentaceous crops; but in this part of Pennsylvania, even contiguous to the city, they make but a poor return in abundant years, from reduced prices; and in seasons of scarcity the result is not much better, from the expense required to make a crop.

"The *Mangel Wurtzel* and *Carrot* will do little with us, though in a light granitic loam, I have observed that they succeed better. For stock feeding, the turnep is decidedly preferable. The white turnep feeds well through the month of January, and sometimes later. Indeed I have preserved them quite sweet until March, by covering about fifteen bushels together, and then opening the heaps only as they were used."

To the Farmers of the West.

The history of the agriculture of the river counties, should serve as an admonition to the west—*not to be too prodigal of the stores of vegetable food with which nature has enriched their soils.* It is the accumulation of centuries. A fraction of this time may serve to dissipate and destroy it. How many improvident youth, unconscious of the dire consequences, and deaf to the admonitions of experience, by an over action of their physical powers, have laid the foundation of incurable disease and premature death. Let us not imitate such.

The natural fertility of the soil was as great in many districts which border the Hudson, as in the new counties of the west. But by a reckless husbandry they were reduced at one time to a sterile and wretched system. Within the recollection of the writer, many of these lands did not yield the third of the crop they do now, under a better system of management. The truth is, every thing was carried off, and comparatively little returned to the soil. The "suitable" division into "pasture, meadow and plough land," which is yet the boast of many of our farmers, was scrupulously pursued, till the finer grasses disappeared, and the meadows yielded only a thin stunted herbage,—and until the plough land became too impoverished to yield a decent crop of grain. Necessity, which is said to be the mother of invention, and the spirited enterprise of a few intelligent individuals, finally led to a new era in their husbandry. The introduction of gypsum and grass seeds was the beginning of improvement. Rotation of crops,—economy of manure,—and better farm implements followed. The farm stock then began to be improved, and sheep husbandry to be increased. Improvements have been prosecuted till a portion of the farms are now as profitable as the new lands of the west; and the good examples are yearly enlarging the sphere of their influence. The pine lands of Kinderhook were once considered not worth cultivating; and the time is not distant when they were sold at $3 an acre. Good farming has enhanced their value to $40 and $60 per acre, at which price some farms have been recently sold. The pine lands of Saratoga are experiencing a like change, and under a judicious system of alternate husbandry, economy of manures, and efficient draining, they must rapidly advance in productiveness and value.

Too many of our western farmers seem disposed by practice to sacrifice permanent good for present gain, to destroy the goose which lays their golden eggs. Many new lands increase in fertility some years, without manure, from the accelerated decomposition of vegetable matter, which goes on in the soil in consequence of its exposure in tillage to the increased influence of heat and air, the prime agents, in connection with the water which is always present in the soil, of putrefaction. The more rapid the putrefactive process, the greater the exhaustion of fertility. If we would *preserve* the high character of our lands for fertility, we must pursue the same course which others have successfully adopted to *restore* fertility to those which have become worn out. We must not take in succession exhausting crops of grain; we must alternate between the artificial grasses, roots and other ameliorating kinds. We must be more saving of our manures, and more judicious in applying them, before they have lost half of their value by fermentation. Our long manures will feed a hoed crop, by their gaseous matters, while they are undergoing the change to fit them for the small grains. The oftener we intervene grasses, the less exhausting the rotation. While we guard against the errors, which impoverished the old counties, let us imitate the practices which have restored them to fertility; and we shall then be enabled to transmit to our children a truly invaluable inheritance.

B.

The Journal of a Naturalist,

Is a duedecimo volume of 287 closely printed pages, with two handsome engravings and five wood cuts. The author appears to be a resident of Gloucestershire in England, a scientific observer, pious, unassuming, and so modest as to conceal his name. To such of our readers as would wish to become better acquainted with the home of our ancestors, in regard to its population, its quadrupeds, its birds, its insects, its reptiles, and its plants, we can cordially recommend this little volume; and our horticulturists when suffering from attacks on the plants of their culture by worms and insects, may derive some consolation from discovering that they are not worse off than the inhabitants of other countries, who contrive notwithstanding, to be rewarded for their care and industry. Indeed we think it probable that our depredators, which with one or two exceptions are peculiar to this continent, are the most manageable.

Heavy complaints have long been made against the common snail of England (*Helix aspersa*) from which we are happily exempt. Our author says:

"A sad persevering depredator and mangler it is; and when we catch it at its banquet on our walls, it can expect no reprieve from our hands. No creature seems less qualified to commit the depredations which it does, than the garden snail. We grieve to see our fruit mangled and disfigured by these creatures; but cannot readily comprehend by what means they obtain the knowledge that its maturity is approaching—though we find that they must be endued with some faculty capable of accomplishing the purpose; for no sooner does a plum, a fig, a nectarine, or other fruit, begin to ripen on the wall, and long before any sensible odor can be diffused from it, even before an experienced eye can detect the approach to maturity,—than those creatures, the slug and the snail, will advance from their asylums, though remotely situate, and proceed by very direct paths to the object. This cannot probably be by the guidance of any *known* faculty. Eye-sight was once considered to be situated on the summit of their horns; but this is now known to be *erroneous*, and we do not know that they have any vision. The acoustic organ of worms and insects is unknown; and

it is not by any means ascertained that these creatures even hear.* If they possess the faculty of smelling, in them it must be a very exquisite sense, beyond any delicacy we can comprehend."

Of the usefulness of the common earth worm (*Lumbricus terrestris*) which is found in every quarter of the globe, our author entertains a higher opinion than has fallen to our share. He considers it

"The natural manurer of the soil, and the ready indicator of an improved staple; consumes on the surface of the ground, where they soon would be injurious, the softer parts of decayed vegetable matters, and conveys into the soil the more woody fibers, where they molder, and become reduced to a simple nutriment, fitting for living vegetation. The parts consumed by them, are soon returned to the surface, whence dissolved by frosts, and scattered by rains, they circulate again in the plants of the soil."

All these benefits are more than counterbalanced in our estimation, by their working in the soil when it is wet, which causes it to harden in the sun like the mortar prepared for bricks. Judicious farmers say that *mellow* ground ought never to be cultivated when it is so wet as to stick together like a ball; for when so hardened it not only prevents the extending of the roots, but it is incapable of *attracting* the requisite supplies of moisture from the atmosphere, which in some soils amounts nearly to one-tenth of the whole weight. Our author admits however, that thes worms "are sad tormenters to us gardeners, and occasion the loss of more young plants than even the slug, by drawing in the leaf, which throws out the root; so that in the morning we find our nursling inverted."

Of all the numerous species of *Aphis*, perhaps that called in England "the American Blight," is the most to be dreaded. Through the carelessness of British nurserymen, it has been sent on young trees over to New Holland; and from the same cause and quarter, it has arrived on our own shores. Our orchardists cannot be too much on the alert against this pest; and to show them the danger that threatens, we present our author's description of this insect:

"Our apple trees here are greatly injured, and some annually destroyed by the agency of what seems to be a very feeble insect. We call it, from habit or from some unassigned cause, "the American Blight" (*Aphis lanata*); this noxious creature being known in some orchards by the more significant name of "white blight." In the spring of the year a slight hoariness is observed upon the branches of certain species of our orchards. As the season advances this hoariness increases, it becomes cottony, and toward the middle or end of summer, the under sides of some of the branches are invested with a thick downy substance, so long as at times to be sensibly agitated by the air. Upon examining this substance we find that it conceals a multitude of small wingless creatures, which are busily employed in preying upon the limb of the tree beneath. This they are well enabled to do, by means of a beak terminating in a fine bristle: this being insinuated through the bark, and the sappy part of the wood, enables the creature to extract as with a syringe, the sweet vital liquor that circulates in the plant. This terminating bristle is not observed in every individual: in those that possess it, it is of different lengths; and is usually when not in use, so closely concealed under the breast of the animal, as to be invisible. The alburnum or sap wood being thus wounded, rises up in excrescences and nodes all over the branch, and deforms it; the limb deprived of its nutriment, grows sickly; the leaves turn yellow, and the part perishes. Branch after branch is thus assailed until they all become leafless, *and the tree dies.*

"This insect is vivaparous, or produces its young alive, forming a cradle for them by discharging from the extremities of its body, a quantity of long cottony matter, which becoming interwoven and entangled, prevents the young from falling to the earth, and completely envelopes the parent and offspring. This lanuginous vestiture seems to serve likewise as a vehicle for dispersing the animal. The winds wafting about small tufts of this downy matter, convey the creature with it from tree to tree throughout the whole orchard. In the autumn when this substance is generally long, the winds and rains of the season effectually disperse these insects, and we observe them endeavoring to secrete themselves in the crannies of any neighboring substance.

"The first visit of this Aphis to us, is by no means clear. The epithet of American Blight, may be correctly applied; but we have no sufficient authority to conclude that we derived this pest from that country. Normandy and the Netherlands too, have each been supposed to have conferred this evil upon us; but it bids fair to destroy in progression, most of the oldest and long esteemed fruit from our orchards."

"I have very successfully removed this blight from young trees, and from recently attacked places in those more advanced, by an easy application: Melt three ounces of rosin in an earthen pipkin, take it from the fire, and pour into it three ounces of fish oil; the ingredients perfectly unite, and when cold, acquire the consistence of honey. A slight degree of heat will liquify it; and in this state paint over every node or infected part in the tree, using a common painter's brush. This I prefer doing in the spring, or as soon as the hoariness appears. The substance soon hardens and forms a varnish which prevents any escape, and stifles the individuals."

A notice of this insect may also be found at page 297 of our last volume, but we give this additional testimony for the information of new subscribers, and to remind others of the necesity of being vigilant.

The caterpillar which is the scourge of *unprotected* orchards is doubtless a different species of Phalena from the caterpillars of England, and consequently not known there; yet they have troubles as well as we:

"In the years 1825 and 1826, the foliage of our hedges in the spring months was unusually mangled by the caterpillars of different moths; but in 1827 these creatures *had increased so much*, that the entire leaves of the sloe [plum] and the white thorn were consumed by them; the hedges when consisting of these shrubs alone, presented for miles the appearance of winter sprays, covered with a cottony web."

Dunging in the Hill.

Dunging in the hill appears to us an injudicious method of applying manure, even when the quantity is small. It gives to the plant a luxuriant start, provided the manure is rotted, but too often proves of little value afterwards. It is mostly used in this way upon corn. If the manure is long, or dry, and dry weather ensues, it firefangs or does not rot, and the crop is little benefitted; and for the next crop it benefits only parts of the soil where the corn has grown. The small fibers of the roots are the mouths of the plants through which the food passes to the stock. If we examine the roots of corn we shall perceive that they extend as far in the ground as the stocks do above. Hence it will be perceived, that the dung, if placed in the hill, cannot benefit the roots, nor materially the plant, after they have extended beyond the circle where it is deposited. Whereas if it is spread and buried in the soil, it benefits them in their whole extent; there probably not being a square inch of ground in the field into which the roots do not penetrate in search of food. We would thank some of our readers to make an experiment, and communicate to us the result. Let half an acre have ten loads in the hole, and another half acre ten loads spread broadcast, and note the product of each in corn and the crop which follows it.

Canada Thistles.

On looking into *Lathrop's* FARMER'S LIBRARY, a duodecimo volume of 344 pages published about seven years ago in Vermont, we found the following remark on the Canada Thistle:

"It signifies little for one farmer to destroy the thistles in his ground so long as they are suffered to flourish in contiguous fields; because the seeds are wafted in the air from field to field, to a considerable distance. For this reason it is, that in France a man may sue his neighbor for neglecting to *thistle* his ground in the proper season; or may employ people to do it at his expense."

We are satisfied however, that something better than the law in France may be adopted. We dislike the plan of leaving the execution of measures decidedly of a public nature, to the option of individuals, who are to act, or not to act, according as resentment, patriotism, or partiality may preponderate. No regularity in such a mode, can be expected; and without regularity the whole system for destroying the Canada thistle, becomes unavailing. Besides, it must produce ill-blood among neighbors who ought to be encouraged to live in harmony. It is against the peace and dignity of the State.

On the contrary, no reasonable person blames an officer for performing in a Christian-like and becoming manner, the duties which have devolved on him by law. If a discreet and prudent man, he can pass through the fire unhurt; no other person can; and therefore none but a public officer ought to have the care or management of Canada thistles growing on other people's lands

White Ash for Fuel.

We have had occasion to keep fires in the winter, moderately burning through the night; not keeping the chamber indeed at so high a temperature by several degrees as we do through the day, yet wanting more light and heat than could be obtained from a fire covered up in the usual manner. Our practice has been at bed-time, to draw forward a part of the coals in the open stove, and then behind, on the remainder, to lay a back-log about 8 inches in diameter, slightly covering up most of the coals in front, but throwing a few over the log. If the night is very cold, we put on an additional stick. This course of proceeding through many winters, has given us opportunities to observe the qualities of different kinds of wood; and we have found none *here*, to equal good white ash. We prefer it well seasoned. After a time, the fire penetrates the log, and reduces it to a bed of coals, affording a fine illustration of that passage in Milton's Il Penseroso, where

——— embers glowing through the room
Teach light to counterfeit a gloom;

and while the wind whistles, and the snow drifts against the windows, we have felt it comfortable

* That bees are attracted by the living pan is generally considered as fallacious, and the practice useless.

to observe the dim shadows on the walls, or the faint rosy light on the ceiling.

There is another kind of wood that is quite equal, if not superior, to white ash; but it is only to be found in more hilly districts: We allude to the sweet or mountain birch. Like the ash, it admits the fire to penetrate every part, and gradually becomes converted into a bed of glowing coals. Sugar maple and hickory are probably not inferior to any other kind except for this particular purpose; but we have never succeeded so well with either, as with white ash.

The kind of ash that we have used, is of *the second growth* as it is called, or which has chiefly grown within the last thirty five years. We are not prepared to estimate the difference between this and large trees from the thick shade of the forest; but we suspect that the latter would be found much inferior in quality.

Historical Memoranda.

We have said that no country has made more progress in agricultural improvement, and in multiplying the comforts of life, than Scotland durin the last fifty years. The Rev. C. Peebles, in his statistical account of Mains, in Angus, draws a curious comparison between the farmers in 1760, when he came among them, and 1790. The following are a few points:

1760.	1790.
Land ploughed with oxen. Only a few horses kept to draw the harrow in seed time, and bring in the corn in harvest. 7*l.* thought a great price for a horse.	Oxen not employed in agriculture. Farmers have their saddle horses, worth from 24 to 30*l.* and work horses from 20 to 25*l.* each.
Land rented for 6*s.* per acre, and only two small farms enclosed.	Land at 30*s.* and all enclosed with dykes and thorn hedges.
No English cloth worn but by the minister and a Quaker.	There are few who do not wear English cloth, and several the best superfine.
Men's stockings were what were called plaiding hose, made of woolen cloth. The women wore coarse plaids.—Not a cloke or a bonnet was worn by any woman in the whole parish.	Cotton and thread stockings are worn by both sexes, masters and servants. The women who wear plaids have them fine and faced with silk. Silk plaids, clokes and bonnets are very numerous.
Only two hats in the parish. The men wore cloth bonnets.	Few bonnets are worn, and the bonnet maker's trade is given up.
There was only one eight-day clock in the parish, six watches and one tea-kettle.	Thirty clocks, one hundred watches and above sixty tea-kettles.
The people never visited each other except at Christmas. The entertainment was broth and beef, and the visitors sent to some ale house for five or six pints of ale, and were merry over it without any ceremony.	People visit each other often. Six or seven dishes are set on the table differently dressed. After dinner a bowl of rum punch or whiskey toddy is drank,—then tea, then another bowl, then supper, and, after that, the grace drink.

Tartlets.

A lady who made Tartlets long before *The Cook's Own Book* was published, considers them a very convenient appendage to the Dessert: "Butter some small Tartlet pans; line them with a nice thin puff paste; mark it neatly round the edges, and bake them." They will keep some days according to the state of the weather; but are best fresh, gradually becoming harder and less flavored. When wanted "fill them with custard, preserves, or any sweet meat."

Honey taken in tea, is recommended as a valuable antidote for that worst of diseases, the gravel.

Zinc Ware Dangerous to Health.

We have observed within a few weeks, a recommendation of Zinc ware in several agricultural papers; and believing it to be a deleterious article, very improper to be introduced into dairies, we republish the following, and particularly recommend it to the notice and serious consideration of our readers.

From the New-York Farmer.

At a reguar meeting of the Albany Institute, held the 28th ult. Dr. T. Romeyn Beck read a paper on the *danger to health* in employing articles manufactured *from Zinc* for *culinary* and *domestic* purposes. The author stated, that his attention had been recently called to the subject, from the fact, that articles of zinc ware are, at present, advertised, as well adapted for cooking rice and all kinds of sweetmeats; also for the dairy, being recommended as producing from 20 to 25 per cent. more cream or butter than in any other way, and for preserving butter sweet, &c.

The patentee, (if his patent be tenable,) could not have been aware, that this subject had been made a matter of investigation with European governments, and the result a most unfavorable one.

The following were among the facts stated in corroboration of this assertion:

The French government, in 1813, were desirous of substituting *zinc canteens* in the army, instead of tinned ones, as neater and more durable. Previous to introducing them, the minister of war referred the subject to the following eminent chimists and medical men: Chaussier, Gay Lussac, Thenard and Clusel. They reported against their use most decidedly, and for the following (among other) reasons. Zinc is readily and powerfully corroded by vinegar. Common urine dissolves a portion of it, with a disengagement of hydrogen gas. Even water, standing a considerable time in vessels of zinc, acquired a disagreeable taste, and by its oxygen, dissolved a portion, and formed an oxide. (An abstract of this report, is contained in the New-York Medical Reports, vol. 17, p. 188.)

During the same year, both the ministers of war, and of the Interior, referred the subject of zinc vessels for culinary purposes to the French Institute. The report was unfavorable. Cuvier says they found "that zinc was too soluble even in the weakest acids, in fat and even in water; that the salts which it forms are too acrid, and in certain cases, act too violently on the intestines to allow the employment of the metal for such purposes without inconvenience. Say found, that even distilled water, kept in vessels of zinc acquires a decided styptic taste, and that the *juices of fruits*, when boiled in similar vessels, dissolve a portion of them, and form a sufficient quantity of salt to render their taste disagreeable." (Annals of Philosophy, edited by P. Thomson, 4, 310.)

Proust, an eminent Spanish Chimist, was about the same time ordered by his government to investigate this subject. His report, which is a very elaborate one, fortified by numerous experiments, is equally unfavorable. It may be found in the 1st Series of the English Repository of Arts.

The medical faculty of Paris requested Vauquelin and Deyeux to examine this subject. They found, besides the effects of vinegar and water, already mentioned, that citron juice, on being boiled in zinc vessels, dissolved the metal and formed a salt.

Common salt in solution, furnished a liquor which, on being tested, gave a precipitate of oxide of zinc. Even butter heated in a zinc sauce-pan destroyed the polish of the vessel, and a small hole was formed in its bottom. It is therefore impossible, they remark, to employ it for kitchen utensils, without incurring the hazard of its being united either in the state of oxide or salt with domestic viands.

After reading these authorities, Dr. B. submitted to the members, whether the experiment of introducing such vessels in this country should not be discountenanced. He exhibited a zinc kettle, in which about a gill of vinegar had stood for two days in the cold air. The acid had become dark colored, and bitter to the taste, and the surface of the vessel where it had rested had oxidized. Here no heat had been applied. What then must be the result, where sweetmeats are prepared in them, all of which contain more or less acid? The same remark must undoubtedly apply, to a sufficient extent, to all other articles proposed to be kept in zinc vessels.

Notices, &c.

Cattle Husbandry.—We give this week the communication of R. on the "*Improved* Short Horns," and shall in our next commence the publication of a series of numbers on the history and characteristics of the various breeds of improved Cattle, from the pen of our correspondent *Quercus*. They extend to thirteen, under the following heads:

No. 1. Introduction.
2. History, Classification, &c.
3. Long Horns—Bakewell breed.
4. do. history continued.
5. Middle Horns.
6. do. The Devons.
7. do. The Herefords & others.
8. do. The Ayrshires.
9. Hornless—Galloways and Suffolks.
10. Alderneys.
11. Short Horns.
12. do. Durhams, &c.
13. American Cattle —with remarks.

It is proper to remark that these numbers were written, and partly received from our correspondent, who is now a resident of Albany, before the publication of Judge Buel's articles on Cattle Husbandry appeared, which will account for a repetition of some particulars given by Quercus, and which we think it best to retain rather than to break in upon his history, which is intended to give a more full view of the improved breeds of Cattle, than any thing we have yet published.

☞ The communication of "W. G." has been in the hands of the engraver ever since its receipt, who has promised to have the figures engraved week after week; but they are not yet done. He assures us we shall have them in season for next week.

Saratoga County.—At a meeting in Ballston, Jan. 9, the Agricultural Society of that county was re-organized, and Elisha Powell chosen President; Thomas Dibble, Jabez Reed, William Taylor, and Joshua Mandeville, Vice Presidents; Alpheus Goodrich, Treasurer; Wm. G. Verplanck, Secretary. The committees on Agriculture, Horticulture, Manufactures and Domestic Animals, are to be appointed at a meeting to be held at Ballston on the 22d of February inst.

Errata.—Page 29, last line of col. 3, for "water," read *mortar*. First line of p. 30, for "busily," read *briskly*.

In the note at the bottom of the 3d column, page 26, "barometer" is printed for *lactometer*. The first determines the atmospheric pressure,—the other, the richness of milk.

Page 36, col. 3, line 9, from bottom, for "plastering," read *pasturing*—page 37, col. 1, line 19, for "only," read *early*.

A Farmer will perceive that we have added "of Onondaga" to his signature. This we have done to distinguish it from that of an old correspondent who has written many articles under the signature of "A Farmer,"—one of which appears in the present number.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Fences.

The farmers of western New-York have often been exhorted to make provision for fencing their farms, when the timber suitable for that purpose, now standing on them, shall have been exhausted; but it is very evident that the subject has not received that attention which its importance demands. Several farms in my vicinity are without the materials to repair the fences, and the owners are purchasing rails; yet no measures have been taken to provide for the future.

When a country is first cleared, the crooked rail fence is perhaps the best that can be made; but when timber becomes scarce, and the stumps have mostly disappeared, it is time to supply the place of these unsightly fences with such as will occupy less ground, and be more pleasing to the eye.

The thorn, thorn locust, crab apple, &c. have been recommended for hedges, but I believe comparatively few farmers have attempted to cultivate either of them for that purpose. The thorn, although it answers well in the humid climate of Great Britain, is of slow growth here, and the beautiful hedges of that material which adorned the state of Delaware previous to the revolutionary war, have mostly perished. Judge Buel is a warm advocate of the three-thorned Acacia; but E. Hersy Derby states that after a fair trial, he found it not to answer the purpose. He recommends the American Buckthorn, which he says at the age of three years presented a sufficient fence.

Now, although I would not discourage any from attempting to raise hedges, yet having come to the conclusion that I can do better, I shall proceed to point out the plan which it is my intention to pursue. I have procured seeds of the yellow Locust, and shall (after scalding) put them in the ground as soon as it is fit to receive them. When one year old they should be cut near the ground, when a very straight and thrifty shoot will spring up, and at the age of two or three years they may be transplanted from the nursery to the field where they are to stand. I intend to cover with them five acres of light sandy soil, and expect at the end of six or eight years to have plenty of trees fit for posts.

The soil best adapted to the Locust is a rich sandy loam, but they flourish remarkably on the poor sands of Cowneck, Long Island, where two hundred and fifty dollars have been paid by ship builders for the Locust timber standing on an acre. Although a warm light soil suits them best, I am persuaded they would grow in any part of Western New-York, and attain a size in twelve or fourteen years sufficiently large to make two to four posts. I had two growing in a stiff clay, either of which, at that age, would have made four good posts.

Attempts to cultivate them have been made, on a very extensive scale, in several towns on the Hudson; but I believe in almost every instance, the borer has destroyed the hopes of the farmer. In this country we are exempt from this evil. I have been conversant with the Locust for more than twenty years, and I have never seen one in the western section injured by the borer.

The Locust has the remarkable property, even when planted on the lightest sands, of introducing a fine sward. I have remarked this where I have seen it growing on the very poorest soils of Long Island, and have often heard others make the remark.

As an ornamental tree it is beautiful; and when in flower, perfumes the air for a considerable distance. But it should never be planted on the borders of fields designed for tillage, for the roots extend many yards, and wherever one is cut off by the plough, a young locust springs up. This propensity renders it very easy to spread it. It is said, that plant twenty at equal distances on an acre, and plough the field twice, at intervals of three or four years, and the number of trees will be altogether sufficient.

It is well known that Locust is considered the most durable timber our country affords—for no other do ship builders pay so high a price, and in fence posts it is said to have stood 100 years. I have no doubt the time will come when it will bear transportation on the canal.

Almost any timber of our forests would answer for boards, and saw mills are found in every town. So that if every farmer will *now* turn his attention to the Locust, he need not fear but that when his present fences have decayed, he will have the means to erect such as will take up the least possible ground, will not blow down, will be an ornament to his farm, and such as his children may enjoy after him. ONTARIO.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Improved Short Horns.

Your valuable correspondent, "ULMUS," has introduced to the notice of your readers the subject of stock, in a way well calculated to elicit the views and opinions of those who have given their attention to this important branch of agricultural interest; and it will, I trust, not only awaken a more general attention and inquiry into the value of the respective breeds alluded to, but will lead to a closer examination, a nicer scrutiny, and a more minute investigation of their distinctive characteristics, pretensions, and merits. These being well understood, the very *important* points of pedigree and descent will be more narrowly looked into, and the excellence of a *pure* and *improved* breed will not be estimated by results obtained from its coarser originals, its half breeds, or mongrels. Every red beast of the field will not claim descent from the elegant and beautiful "*Devon*"—every imported "Short Horn"—every ship's cow with a crumpled horn, will not be palmed off on us for an "*improved Short Horn*"—the vulgar looking overgrown Leicester will not pass as Bakewell sheep, neither will the Hampshire downs be mistaken for the more refined Southdown sheep. In these matters we have been long enough the dupes of our own ignorance; and when we have given them more of our attention, we shall hear less of disappointments, of animals possessing no purity of blood,—of mixed breeds and their immediate degeneracy, &c. for the fact is, we shall then depend on *full bred* animals only for the improvement of our native stock, selecting such as are of undoubted pedigree, possessing their good qualities and excellent forms by *inheritance;* and these points, thoroughly established by long descent, form the characteristics of a particular breed which will be assuredly transmitted to their progeny. It is this certainty of *inheritance* from *full bloods*, that renders them so incomparably more valuable to the breeder, than any lesser grade of the same blood—it is this admitted fact that induces men to hazard such large sums of money, as we daily see risked, on the unborn produce of high bred animals; and upon this same principle it was, that when I wished to purchase, from the celebrated breeder, N. Whitaker, the produce of "*Western Lady*," (one of the cows cited by Ulmus,) I found it had been previously engaged to Col. Powel; nor was it at all remarkable that Mr. Whitaker, after I had become acquainted with his herd, should send me, for my selection, the names of seventeen cows, and their time of calving, with the prices of their produce, which varied as much as though the respective merits of their parents had already been identified in their embryo progeny. Another circumstance brought to my notice the importance attached to pedigree, by the breeders of cattle in England: While attending the cattle show, at Otley, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, for the purpose of purchasing the best individuals I could obtain of the Improved Durham Short Horns, I was offered the *prize heifer* of the day, for less than one half what I paid Mr. Whitaker of Greenholm for younger animals! The heifer, though very beautiful in herself, had but two crosses of the *improved* blood; her grand dam being a selected "Short Horn" cow, but not of the *improved* breed; therefore, those excellencies, which obtained for her the premium, were not considered sufficiently established in herself, to *secure* their *descent* to her offspring, and thus render her valuable to the breeder, who could obtain others of purer blood, nor was it of frequent occurrence that a minor grade should beat a full blood. The premium, for the best two year old bull, was taken by an "*Improved* Durham Short Horn," bred by Mr. Whitaker, (sired by his favorite bull "Frederick,") which I now have at Maple Grove. The importance I attach to pedigree, and the desire I have that it should be fully estimated by others, induces me to offer the following extract on the subject from the Rev. Henry Berry's Prize Essay, as found in "Hints for American Husbandmen," &c. He states:

"It is possible that a good male may beget a son equally good as himself in EXTERNALS, from an ill bred female, but it is certain that such son will prove comparatively an inferior stock getter, it being an established fact that animals BREED BACK in point of resemblance, and it is therefore considered necessary, for the object of improvements or to retain excellence, to have a pedigree as little dubious as possible, for several generations. So important indeed is this fact of correct descent, that many breeders, who have, from causes which it is difficult to ascertain, a well bred animal of defective form, venture to use him, relying on his blood, and experience no reason for regret that they have done so."

Having said thus much on the importance of pedigree, I will now remark, in reference to the "*Improved* Short Horns," that no animal can be considered full bred, whose pedigree, *both* on the part of the *dam* and sire, is not to be traced *uninterruptedly* back to the "*Herd Book*," which has been in England carefully kept as a register of this breed of cattle, with all the exactness of the "Stud book." In purchasing *such* cattle nothing need be said, nothing need be taken on trust,—the "Herd Book" is the best voucher of pedigree, and I would strongly recommend that a copy should be kept in the office of every agricultural journal as a book of reference, which would enable the editor to answer any and every

inquiry on the subject of pedigree relative to the "*Improved* Short Horns."

Short Horns are the prevailing breed of Flanders, part of Holland, and as far north as Holstein; and, from importations, are now the common stock of the north of England, under the various modifications of "Short Horns," "Teeswater," and "Durham" cattle. They were also imported into this country, under the appellation of *Dutch* cattle, and their descendants are common in the neighborhood of Hartford, and through the Connecticut valley; also along the borders of New Hampshire and Vermont, where they were introduced by Wm. Jarvis, Esq." who after twenty year's experience on the subject thinks they cannot be improved by any cross or any breed of cattle." E. Wolcott, Esq. a skillful practical farmer of Connecticut, it seems, was not of the same opinion; for this gentleman, after purchasing a few heifers from Mr. Jarvis, traveled into Massachusetts, and there saw the imported bulls *Denton, Cœlebs*, and *Admiral*, of the *improved* Short Horn breed, and their offspring: and then, in a letter addressed to the corresponding secretary of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, expresses himself fully persuaded of the superiority of these last, and purchased a young bull of the *improved* breed. It would appear, also, that the English breeders did not remain so well satisfied with their importations from Holland as to "continue to keep the blood distinct." In tracing the history of the improved Short Horns, we are led back nearly one hundred years, to the time of Sir Wm. St. Quintin, of Scampston, who resided in the north of England, and there introduced, from Holland, the cattle, which crossed with the best stocks of the country, possessed of the same characteristics, became distinguished as the "Teeswater Short Horns." That considerable attention to the improvement of this breed had been given, even at this early period, is evident, from the results of Mr. Milbank of Barningham, who slaughtered a five year old ox of this breed, weighing 2110 lbs. the four quarters, and yielding 224 lbs. of tallow. A cow, also bred from his stock, slaughtered at twelve years old, weighed upwards of 1500 lbs.; and this cow was the daughter of the *old Studly bull*, one of the most celebrated ancestors of the *improved* Short Horns. He was the grand sire of *Dalton Duke*, afterwards the property of Mr. Wetherill, a celebrated breeder of the *impreved* Short Horns. Mr. Geo. Snowden, of early memory, also obtained from Sir Wm. St. Quintin's stock, six cows and a bull, from which he bred *Snowden's Bull*, the sire of *Hubback*, another noted ancestor of the *improved* breed. It will now be sufficient to say, that in Mr. C. Colling's bull *Foljambe*, the Barningham and Hubbock's blood were united, and that this bull was the grandsire of *Comet*, the most celebrated animal in the "Herd Book;" to which we refer those who would wish to fill up, more particularly, the skeleton, here traced from the Rev. H. Berry's pamphlet on the subject. He further says—"From the time of Mr. Milbank to the period when Mr. C. Colling commenced breeding, it appears, then, that considerable care had been bestowed on the Teeswater cattle," the originals of the *improved* Short Horns; and the records, since, most amply prove their continued and improving excellence. Again the Rev. H. Berry observes:

"It is on testimony unimpeachable and experience most matured, that the animals, respecting which particulars have been given, were in themselves extremely good, ripe in points, possessing fine symmetry, and light offal. Surely it is justifiable to conclude the originals of the *Improved* Short Horns were long deservedly celebrated as a valuable stock; that therefore their descendants *are not* a breed, as to excellence, of *yesterday*, liable and likely to *degenerate to-morrow*; but that they possess the important advantage of being descended from a long line of animals in which existed, in an eminent degree, the good points which are admired in themselves."

Being an admirer of the *improved* Short Horns, I have endeavored to set them apart and alone, in contradistinction to the whole Short Horn family, and its various and mixed varieties, and as a separate breed, not coming at all within the remarks cited by "Ulmus," as objections, and valid ones too, against "Short Horn Durham Bulls." I could almost imagine the writer of the quoted paragraph, had made his selection of a bull, from a batch of Short Horns, manufactured in Connecticut for the western market, which I saw parading the streets of Albany, (some eighteen months since) in a long and ludicrous procession; they looked the very burlesque of pedigree—and yet, they found purchasers! R.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Raising of Early Tomatoes.

To those who are as fond of this delicious vegetable as we are, it cannot be otherwise than acceptable to know how it may be brought to early perfection. In this climate, sowed in open ground at the usual season of sowing seeds, it ripens not till September, nor even then if the season proves cold. To have the fruit in perfection, at least two months earlier, during the warm part of the season when it is the most grateful to the taste and most wholesome, is no unimportant desideratum. The past season I had ripe tomatoes at the 4th of July, and an abundant supply for my table the rest of the summer. The mode I practice is this: In the month of January or February I sow a small quantity of the seed in a box, which I place in the window in my kitchen, taking the same care of the plants when they come up that I would of a green house plant, to guard them against being frozen. They here grow till the month of March or April, when they are transplanted into a hot-bed, a part of them to remain to produce the earliest fruit, and a part to be again transplanted in the open ground when the season becomes sufficiently warm, to produce a succession. In this way I never fail to have abundance of this wholesome and delicious vegetable, ripe and in fine perfection, at that part of the season when it is most desirable. Those who have green houses might in this way have the plants growing all winter in pots, which, early in the spring taken out of the pots with the ball of earth about their roots unbroken, and planted in a hot-bed, would produce ripe fruit by the beginning of June. They would well repay this extra care and trouble. W. W. B.

For the Genesee Farmer

Chess.

In the case brought forward at page 15, to prove that wheat will turn to chess, the writer assumes that not "one hundredth part of the chess came from any thing else but the pure seed wheat." If he will take the trouble to turn to page 335 of the second volume, he may find the *true* composition of what farmers often call "clean or pure seed wheat;" and that it contains from ten to fifteen grains of chess in every handful. This quantity is enough to seed the ground, and probably to produce all the chess in question.

In the course of this controversey the following rule has been proposed: 'No experiment in favor of transmutation to be reported unless *special search* with regard to chess in the seed grain, has been made by some competent person.' The design of this proposal was to shorten the *pleadings*. So strong is the probability that seed wheat contains chess, that the contrary cannot be admitted without the clearest testimony; and your correspondent at Lancaster in Erie county, would do well, either to adopt it, or to refute (if he can) the argument on which it is grounded.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Highways---No. XVI.

For some time past, our sleighing has been rather thin; and the drivers have been very willing to leave the middle of the road, and to get on the grassy side-tracks, close along the fences. Here, instead of grinding the sleigh-shoes over the gravel, and dragging the load on a slow walk, the horses pass off on a round trot, assuming and imparting much of that air of cheerfulness which is generally attendant on brisk business.

It is a wonder to me however, that of all the hundreds of people in so many towns who thus most feelingly become acquainted with the advantages and benefits of side-tracks,—not one on the return of summer, should remember any thing about it, or take the least pains to prepare or render them more passable against another winter. I speak only of what has come under my own observation. I have not seen any where within the round of my travels, marks of the least attention having been bestowed on these very necessary appendages of a good highway. Not a stump or log removed—not a cradle-knoll leveled; but on the contrary, all the rubbish—whether of wood or stone—that is considered too bad to drive wagons over, is thrown right into the side-tracks; and in making the summer fallows that disgrace so many of our roads, this great convenience is entirely overlooked. In many places, the sparing of a single furrow would have saved a side-track. In other places, there are good side-tracks *owing to the negligence of the overseer*, but we cannot get these, as the ditches are so deep, that no careful teamster with a load would run the risk of upsetting in attempting to go over.

Observing so much amiss in the management of our highways, and thoroughly satisfied that some new system ought to be adopted, it has been no common gratification for me to find this subject recommended to the Legislature in the very able and excellent Message of Governor Marcy; and in order to make room for it, as it well deserves a place in all agricultural papers, I shall reserve some additional remarks for another Number: Viator.

"The great design of internal improvement is to afford to the people generally the means of an easy and expeditious intercourse, and to increase facilities for the transportation of their products and articles of merchandize. While we are intent upon devising and executing magnificent works for attaining these objects, let us not lose sight of those of an humbler character, but of

very general interest, essentially contributing to the same end. The heavy burdens annually imposed upon the people for common highways and bridges, are not, it is generally believed, attended with corresponding benefits. The mode of applying the labor assessed and the money raised for this purpose, is conceived to be defective. *Without increasing the public expense*, much better results might be obtained, by securing greater economy in the expenditures, and *a more skillful application of the labor* to the objects to be accomplished. The general interest of all classes of our citizens in this subject, will commend it to your favorable notice."

For the Genesee Farmer.

Chess.

Me. Editor—I have noticed with particular attention the various suggestions made in your valuable paper, by different writers, on the subject of Chess. It is indeed a subject of much importance to the farmer, and I have felt exceedingly solicitous to obtain some settled, satisfactory opinion as to its nature, character and origin. My leading impressions in relation to it, have changed and varied as the subject has been variously presented to my mind, through the communications of some of your valuable correspondents. The opinion originally and ever entertained by me, until since I have been conversant with practical farming, has been that chess was a distinct species of grain, as distinct, and as much "*sui generis*" as rice or oats, and as unalterable in its nature, and underived from any other grain as rice. This belief, I am constrained to say, has been greatly weakened, and very nearly destroyed, by a careful attention to the suggestions of some of your correspondents. The article in your paper of January 11, page 15, by A. P. Robinson, which I have this moment been reading, strongly inclines to this result. But then the succeeding article of your valuable correspondent, "R. M. W." whose notices I have often been gratified to see, contains a suggestion which tends to unsettle my mind, and excite strong doubts as to the fact of the "transmutation of grain." He suggests, that the God of nature has impressed on seeds unalterable, distinctive characteristics. That although man may modify, may improve and make better, or depreciate and make worse, by good or bad culture, still he cannot change, cannot alter, the nature. That seeds have unalterable propensities and characteristics, which cannot be changed by man. Now this suggestion has impressed me forcibly. I do not know how to get away from it. It is a law of His creation, an inviolable principle in nature, that "like should produce like." But for this principle, confusion would forthwith pervade the universe. And on this principle wheat must produce wheat, and chess, alone, must produce chess, provided it is a distinct species of grain. But then, so many facts are adduced, which seem to go irresistibly to prove that chess proceeds from wheat, that my mind is pained to arrive at some settled, satisfactory decision. It is indeed no small matter, after all the toil, labor and expense of sowing 100 bushels of wheat, to have a crop one half chess. I make this remark from painful experience. And if any one can remedy such a result, I want to know it. That chess will produce chess is certain. It is important, therefore, to have our seed wheat free from it; and in my own practice the past season, I have carefully sifted by hand all my seed wheat, in order to sow, not only pure seed, but also the largest and best kernels. That wheat also *will produce chess*, I feel constrained to *believe*, but do not certainly *know* the fact. I hope, therefore, most sincerely, that your valuable correspondents, intelligent, observing men, will continue to discuss and analyze this subject, until the real truth and the whole truth in relation to it shall be fully developed. We must know the origin of the evil, we must know its causes, in order to know how to devise and apply a remedy.

I will now suggest a fact, and leave your readers to make their own inferences. One of my neighbors, whose farm adjoins mine, sowed last year a small field of wheat. It was high, elevated ground—rolling land, with some knolls and intervening hollows—considered eligible wheat land. It was turf ground, was ploughed deep in August, sowed early in September, was well harrowed and rolled. It had been cleared nineteen years, and never tilled, but had been used as a sheep pasture. A crop of wheat had been taken from it, eighteen years since, when the land was first cleared. On the half of this field, white flint wheat of fair quality, having some few kernels of chess, was sown. On the other half, pure seed, of the same kind, and of the best quality, was sown. It had been gleaned (collected by hand) by two young women—was all picked up in single heads, and was superior in quality, and absolutely and entirely pure. The winter proved unfavorable, perhaps unusually so, on this elevated particular location. The wheat was badly "winter killed." The crop on the first half of the field, which had been sown with common seed, was hardly worth harvesting. It was at least half, and in some places more than half chess. On the half where pure seed was sown, there were places of excellent, pure wheat—and on some of the knolls, and in some of the hollows, wherever it was "winter killed," it was entire chess, of the finest character. Now, no chess by possibility could have been sown on this part of the field, and to suppose that the germinating principle of chess could have remained dormant in the ground eighteen years, ever since the first crop of wheat at the first clearing of the land, can hardly be presumed.

A Farmer of Onondaga.

Pompey, Jan. 15, 1834.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Plants derive most of their Carbon from the air.

Messrs. L. Tucker & Co.—Your correspondent, *Observer*, [p 22] is correct in saying that vegetables derive most of their carbon from the atmosphere. If there be any truth in the experiments and reports of Van Helmont and others, it would seem that this doctrine is demonstrable. Van Helmont took a willow tree, weighing 50 lbs., planted it in a box of earth which was weighed accurately—was covered with sheet lead, and the tree watered for five years with distilled water. The tree was then taken out and weighed 169 lbs., and the earth had lost only three ounces.

From this it is evident that the tree must have derived 119 lbs. from the atmosphere, for the distilled water could not have contained much food. If we consider that all the wood and coal, vegetable and mineral, that are burnt, are chiefly resolved into carbonic acid gas, we shall not be surprised that this principle abounds in the atmosphere.

Again: all vegetable and animal matter that is decomposed, is principally resolved into the same gas—we need not, therefore, be puzzled to account for the carbon found in vegetables.

Again: all manures, whether vegetable or animal, when buried in the earth, are slowly resolved into the same gas, and supplied to the crop as it can be assimilated—hence the use of manuring land. This principle, which constitutes the chief food of plants, is thus brought into their immediate neighborhood. It is very possible that this gas may be dissolved in water, and taken into the circulation with the water by the roots and assimilated, and thus plants in rich earth derive a part of their nourishment by the roots from the earth, but chiefly by their tops from the atmosphere. Such is my belief. R. M. W.

Jan. 27, 1834.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Lime as a Manure in the Genesee Country.

I wish to correct an expression in my last paper on this subject. Fifty per cent may be near the average quantity of calcareous matter in marls; but as the ingredients never *combine*, so they are not found in *definite proportions*; and the mass is only to be considered as an adventitious *mixture*. "The carbonate of lime," according to Profesor *Cleaveland*, "varies from 25 to 80 per cent. Indeed," he remarks, "in the argillaceous marls it is often much less [than 25 per cent]."

I observe in Deane's New England Farmer that in speaking of the application of marl, he says "It is better to err at first in laying on too little than too much." I should think this hint cannot be of much service. I have never seen a dry upland that contained too much calcareous matter. In this part of the Genesee Country, I have seen the grass shoot up green through slacked lime that had been accidentally scattered not less than two inches thick. I know of no analysis that has been made of our limestone; but as it abounds with animal remains, I conjecture that it is nearly free from magnesia.

The observations of Sir Humphrey Davy may be cited to show that the common limestone land of the Genesee Country might be profitably manured with lime; for only a very small part of it is as rich in this material as that which he describes. He says "In calcareous countries *where the surface is a species of marl*, the soil is often found only a few inches above the limestone; and its fertility is not impaired by the proximity of the rock; though *in a less absorbent soil*, this situation would occasion barrenness; and the sandstone and limestone hills in Derbyshire and North Wales, may be easily distinguished at a distance in summer by the different tints of the vegetation. The grass on the sandstone hills usually appears *brown* and burnt up—that on the limstone hills flourishing and *green*." A Farmer.

For the Genesee Farmer.

The Susquehanna Grape.

Messrs. L. Tucker & Co.—A writer for the Genesee Farmer, [vol. 3, p. 396,] under the head of "Grapes and Vineyards," seems solicitous to know if cuttings from *Mr. Dininger's Susquehanna Grape*, can be obtained of any of your subscribers. I am glad to discover that your correspondent is actuated by motives so praiseworthy as to endeavor to bring into notice superior na-

tive fruits. No doubt many *superior fruits* have never existed except in the *seedling*, to the great loss of the public, from the circumstance that the owner lacked ingenuity to transfer a part of it to other stocks, or liberality and public spirit enough to publish it, and bestow it on others. On the other hand, it is to be deprecated that speculators impose on the community old fruits under new names, as it is a very great annoyance to nurse a young tree for years, watching for its fruit, and at last have it produce the same we had already in abundance.

If your correspondent has the "French Munier or Miller grape," and has confidence in what Mr. Prince says on the subject, I presume he will not be very anxious to obtain cuttings from the "*Susquehanna.*" I will transcribe from Prince's Treatise on the Vine, p. 200: "In regard to this vine [the Susquehanna or Dininger's Grape,] it is unnecessary to enter into details, and it is deemed sufficient to state, that those vended by the above titles, and which were much lauded at the time as a superior native variety, have proved to be identically the French Munier or Miller Grape." J. A. L.

Columbus, (*O.*,) *Jan.* 11, 1834.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Sulphur in Trees.

Messrs. L. Tucker & Co.—I have observed some notices in your paper recommending the boring of fruit trees, and the application of sulphur, with a view to their renovation. I am induced to furnish you with an experiment that has fallen within my observation relative to the same: About ten years ago, two large fine pear trees, on the place on which I live, had been noticed to have been extensively affected with what has been called the "fire blight," and otherwise on the decline. An augur of about three quarters of an inch was bored into the trunk of one of them, the hole filled with partially pounded roll brimstone, and plugged up again. The other tree was left to take its natural course, and in the course of three or four years died. The tree which had been so bored revived, and has borne fruit abundantly since. Last year it was split by a storm of wind, being old and much decayed, by which the perforation was opened to view, and discovered the brimstone apparently in the same state as when it was first placed there—thereby inducing the opinion, that the tree may have been benefitted by the boring, but not from the application of the sulphur, because the same could not have been absorbed by the tree.

D. S.

Allegany co., (*Penn.*,) *Jan.* 22, 1834.

For the Genesee Farmer.

The Yellow Violet.

Messrs. L. Tucker & Co.—I perceive, by an article on page 412, vol. 3 of the Farmer, that "A Florist" is greatly "puzzled" at "guessing" what kind of yellow violet *Bryant* describes at page 160 of the 3d volume of the Farmer. I am no botanist, therefore I cannot give the botanic name of the said violet;—there are, in this vicinity, *five* varieties of wild or native violets, two white, two blue, (one a dark, deep blue, the other pale blue, with a spur on the flower, which, by some, is called the "larkspur violet"—the botanic name, I believe, is "*viola dens canis*") and one *yellow*. The latter is undoubtedly the one meant by *Bryant*. It grows in beech and maple forests, on knolls, &c. and is generally the third wild flower in bloom in this country. I find, by refering to my diary, that it was in blow on the 11*th of April*, last spring. The noble liverwort and spring beauty precede it. It grows and flowers like the common wild *white* violet, but does not grow quite as high. The flower is a beautiful yellow, inclining to orange, striped on the inside with black or very dark blue, is slightly scented, and continues in flower about two months. If "A Florist" wishes to procure this variety, I will save him some seed the ensuing season, and transmit it to his order per mail. It is a perennial. W. H.

North Almond, Jan 15, 1834.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Messrs. L. Tucker & Co.—I am fully convinced that neither mercury nor sulphur applied to the body of a tree will have any effect to expel insects. Even if applied to the roots, it may enter with the water and be carried by the circulation throughout the plant, but I question very much whether the plant will thrive if either be mixed with the water; or, if retained without injury to the tree, will be found any antidote against insects. Mercury not oxydated—mercury in its crude state, is perfectly inert, and sulphur is not an antidote against vermin. Such are my ideas, and I remain, Yours, &c. R. M. W.

Potter, (*N. Y.*,) *Jan.* 10, 1834.

For Sore Throat—Put a half pound of figs in a quart of water, and boil it to a pint—then open and strain the figs. Add two table spoonfuls of yeast, and the same quantity of honey. Gargle the throat with this liquid, and cure is certain.

Large Calf.—A full blooded bull calf of the Durham breed, raised by Samuel Look in this city, short of eleven months old, weighed a few days since 775 pounds by the scales. This is believed to be the largest and best calf of its age ever raised in this section of the state. Who can produce an equal?—*Utica Observer.*

PRICES CURRENT.

ARTICLES.	PER	Feb. 7. ROCHESTER.	Feb. 1. NEW-YORK.
Ashes—Pot....	100lbs.	$3,25 a 0,00	$4,65 a 4,70
—— Pearl..	.....	3,50 a 4,25	4,70 a 4,75
Beeswax, yellow	lb.	0,16 a 0,18	21 a 22
Candles, mould	.....	0,10 a 0,11	13.a
—— dipped.	.....	0,10a0,10½	12½ a 13
Cloverseed....	.....	.....	8..a..9
Flax, American.	.....	.....	8..a..9
Flax seed, clean	tierce	9,00a10,00	17,50....
Flour, Western.	barrel	4,50 a 0,00	5,50 a5,75
Grain, Wheat..	bushel	0,81 a 0,00	.....
—— Rye....	.....	0,62.....	72.a..75
—— Oats...	.....	0,27.....	42.a..44
—— Corn...	.....	0,46.....	66.a..70
—— Barley..	.....	0,50.a..56	70.a..71
Hemp, Americ'n	ton	.....	100 a 125
Hops, 1st sort..	lb.	.....	18.a..19
Plaster Paris...	ton	6,00 a 0,00	3,00a....
Beef, Mess....	barrel	0,00 a10,00	8,75 a 9,50
—— Prime....	.....	0,00 a 8,00	5,75 a 6,00
Pork, Mess....	.....	13,00a14,00	14,00a14,75
—— Prime....	.....	11,00	10,25a11,00
—— in the hog.	100lbs.	4,50 a 5,50	.....
Hog's Lard....	.....	8,00 a 9,00	8,50 a 9,00
Tallow.....	.....	7,50 a 8,00	8,75.....
Hay.....	ton	7,00 a 8,00	11,20 a....
Apples.....	bushel	25.a..50	.....
Potatoes.....	.....	25.a..00	.....
Cheese.....	lb.	6.a...8	7½a....
Butter.....	.....	14..a.16	15.a..17

Valuable Sheep for Sale.

THE subscriber having more SHEEP than he wishes to keep through the summer, will on or before the first of June next, sell about eighty of his fine wooled Ewes with their lambs. Farmers wishing to commence or increase their flock of sheep, will seldom meet with as profitable a lot of Ewes. The greater part of them have been raised from rams from the flock of the Hon. R. S. Rose, and the lambs to be sold with them are from rams selected from the above mentioned flock, which for quality of wool, is not excelled in the United States. The subscriber has also 135 three and four year old Wethers of the first quality, which he will sell about the same time. JOHN JOHNSON.

Fayette, Seneca County, Feb. 7, 1833. feb8-f3m

Durham Cattle for Sale.

A FEW choice animals of the pure "Improved Durham Short Horn" breed, consisting of *Bulls, Cows, Heifers* and *Calves*, may be obtained of the subscriber, if applied for soon.

CALEB N. BEMENT.

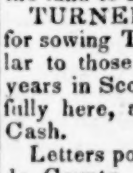
Albany, Feb. 1, 1834. feb 1-f4t

For Sale,

A LEVELING INSTRUMENT or spirit level, with a tripod—price 75 dollars. Apply to DAVID THOMAS,

Jan. 10, 1834. near Aurora in Cayuga county.

Albany Seed Store and Horticultural Repository.



THE subscriber having resumed the charge of the above establishment, is now enabled to furnish traders and others with FRESH GARDEN SEEDS, upon very favorable terms, and of the growth of 1833, *warranted* of the best quality.

The greatest care and attention has been bestowed upon the growing and saving of Seeds, and none will be sold at this establishment excepting those raised expressly for it, and by experienced seedsmen; and those kinds imported which cannot be raised to perfection in this country; these are from the best houses in Europe, and may be relied upon as genuine.

It is earnestly requested whenever there are any failures hereafter, they should be represented to the subscriber; not that it is possible to obviate unfavorable seasons and circumstances, but that satisfaction may be rendered, and perfection approximated.

Orders will be punctually attended to, and carefully packed and forwarded as directed. But as the collection of distant debts is often troublesome, and sometimes impracticable, it is desired that satisfactory references may be made to persons in *Albany*, when the order is not accompanied with the money.

Also, French Lucern, White Dutch Clover, White Mulberry Seed, genuine Mangel Wurzel, Yellow Locust, Ruta Baga, and Field Turnep Seeds, well worth the attention of *Farmers*.

W. THORBURN,

347 N. Market-st. (opposite Post Office.)

☞ Catalogues may be had at the Store; if sent for by mail, will be forwarded gratis: *orders* solicited early, as better justice can be done in the execution.

Albany, Jan. 21, 1834. feb1-f4tr1talt

Draining of Land, &c.

DRAINING being admitted to be one of the best, if not the very best means of improving land, and which repays the expense in general cases within two or three years; the subscriber who has studied the theory and has had much practice in that art for 30 years in Scotland, offers his services to the Public.

CULTURE OF TURNEPS.—Also, having been engaged for many years in raising Turneps to a considerable extent in Scotland and a few years in the County of Oneida in this State, he will give such directions for cultivating this valuable root as will tend to ensure success. If any application on this subject is made by letter, one dollar must be enclosed, and at the same time it will be necessary to give a description of the soil, whether clay, sand, or loam, and of the two crops which have preceded on the land to be sowed.

TURNEP DRILL MACHINE.—Machines for sowing Turnep and Mangel Wurzel seeds similar to those which the subscriber used for twenty years in Scotland, and which he has used successfully here, are manufactured and sold by him for Cash.

Letters post paid, addressed New Hartford, Oneida County, N. Y., will meet with due attention. Most respectable references can be given.

Jan. 10, 1834. THOS. DUDGEON.

Common Schools.

[*From Pres.* LINDLEY'S *Address.*]

"Common Schools then are needed in Tennessee. How shall they be established? Let the people decide. What character and form shall they assume? Let every county be divided into such a number of school districts or departments as will conveniently accommodate all the inhabitants. Erect comfortable and commodious school-houses. Attach to each school-house a lot of ten acres of land, for the purpose of healthful exercise, gardening, farming and the mechanical arts. For the body requires training as well as the mind. Besides, as multitudes must live by manual labor, they ought betimes to acquire habits of industry, economy, temperance, hardihood, muscular strength, skill and dexterity.

"Employ teachers qualified to govern and instruct in the best possible manner. Pay them according to their merit. Pay any sum necessary to command the services of the best and most accomplished teachers. Parsimony in this particular is not only impolitic; it is mean, it is absurd, it is ruinous. Better have no teachers, than to have incompetent, immoral, lazy, passionate or indiscreet ones, however cheaply they may be procured. Their influence will not be merely negative: it will be positive and most powerful. I have often looked with horror upon the kind of common schools and teachers to which thousands of children, during several of their best years, are cruelly and wantonly subjected in the older states. But it is or was the fashion, in many places, to hire a blockhead or a vagabond, because he would teach a child for a dollar and twenty-five cents per quarter! Now, if there be any thing on earth for which a parent ought to feel disposed to pay liberally, it is for the faithful instruction of his children. Compared with this, every other interest vanishes like chaff before the wind—it is less than nothing. And yet, unless the world has suddenly grown much wiser, there is no service so grudgingly and so pitifully rewarded. The consequence is what might have been expected. Every man of cleverness and ambition will turn his back with scorn upon the country school. He will become a lawyer, a physician, a merchant, a mechanic, a farmer, or a farmer's overseer, in preference. Until school keeping be made an honorable and lucrative profession, suitable teachers will never be forthcoming in this free country.

"But what is meant by a common school education? This question has never been answered. Some may think it enough that their children learn to read: others will insist on writing: many will be content with reading, writing and arithmetic. Others will add to this list, grammar, geography, history—perhaps, practical mathematics, physics, astronomy, mechanics, rural economy—with several other branches of science and literature, as ethics, rhetoric, political economy, geology, chimistry, mineralogy, botany:—in short, where shall the limit be fixed? Who shall prescribe the boundaries beyond which a common school education shall never extend? It is evident, upon the slightest reflection, that the phrase *common school education* is a very indefinite one. How far beyond the alphabet it may be carried, has never been ascertained. Experiments are now making in Europe, and in several sections of our own country, which are calculated to give a totally different aspect to this whole concern. It has been discovered at length, what indeed was always sufficiently obvious, that a boy need not be kept at school eight or ten years to learn to read his primer, write his name, cipher to the rule of three,—and to hate books and learning for the rest of his life. It has been discovered that boys may, in three or four years, be taught a hundred fold more, by skillful teachers, in a skillful way, than their fathers ever dreampt of learning at all. This is the grandest discovery of our age. It will do more to meliorate the moral, physical and political condition of mankind generally, than all other means yet devised.

"The excellence and the extent of a common school education, therefore, will ever depend on the qualifications of the teacher and the system which he pursues. No man can teach more than he knows himself. Every man can teach all that he does know. The more he knows, the more useful will he be. In the humblest school in the country, he will find some pupils to be benefited to the utmost extent of his ability to instruct them. And upon the Monitorial or Lancasterian plan, he can teach any number."

Legislative Aid to Agriculture.

The proposition introduced in the N. Y. Legislature, to found an experimental school of agriculture, under the auspices of the state, is well conceived, and we hope it may be acted upon. In this age of general improvement, when institutions and associations have been formed for promoting intelligence in almost every branch of knowledge, and among all classes, we see no good reason why measures should not be taken, for extending similar advantages to the cultivators of the soil. At least five sixths of our whole population are maintained by husbandry and gardening; it is therefore of the first consequence, that instruction should be universally disseminated on all the branches of tillage. This would enable the proprietors of the soil to manage it in such a manner as to ensure the most abundant harvests, as well as to afford the greatest possible enjoyment to their households, from the variety, value and beauty of their products. A powerful impulse should be given to this great branch of national industry: it is required by public policy, patriotism, and a just regard to the rights and interests of the people. And it is greatly desirable that the state governments should take measures to facilitate inquiries and experiments. As a science and an art, agriculture embraces a wide field, requiring an extensive acquaintance with natural history and philosophy, while the practical operations are so various, difficult, and oftentimes even delicate, that they cannot be satisfactorily performed without intelligence. Theory and practice must be taught, and science and skill acquired in a contemporaneous manner; and this can only be done in well managed schools of instruction, combined with farms of experiment, under well educated and practical masters. We can never have the advantage of improved cultivation, combining ornament and recreation, with utility and comfort, without them. The Genius of Husbandry must be sought by advances, propitiated by kindness, and her protection insured by assiduous devotion.

The French people, in the exercise of that munificent spirit which has rendered Paris the emporium of the arts and sciences, the seat of useful knowledge and elegant learning, have endowed seminaries dedicated to all the different branches of rural economy. The Jardin des plants, the school of Rural Economy at Alfort, and the celebrated farm of Rambouillet, would do honor to any country. Why then should we hesitate to commence the foundation of similar establishments. The inducements are more urgent, the demands as imperious, and the prospective advantages incalculable. We should feel dishonored as a nation, that no institutions have been founded for the advancement of an art which includes so much; which administers to our wants, and multiplies the sources of our happiness. This reprehensible indifference—this total negligence of measures for inculcating theoretical knowledge and practical skill, in a fundamental department of human education is inexcusable, and demands the serious consideration of the people. There are means enough and to spare.—*Newark Daily Advertiser.*

JANUARY ASPARAGUS AND LETTUCE!—We have received a bunch of ASPARAGUS and some heads of LETTUCE grown in the garden of STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER, Jr. which are as green and fine as if they had been washed and warmed by the genial showers and sun of the month of May! The man who succeeds in cultivating these luxuries in the month of January—and such a January!—deserves the highest horticultural honors.—*Alb. Eve. Jour.*

Linnæan Botanic Garden and

NURSERIES, FLUSHING, NEAR NEW-YORK.

WILLIAM PRINCE AND SONS, having devoted a portion of their grounds to testing the qualities of the finest Esculent vegetables of foreign countries, as well as those of our own, now offer to Venders and others a most extensive assortment of the *choicest Seeds*, possessing the advantage of being raised under their own inspection, or of being imported from their confidential friends, and tested to their satisfaction. The principal object is to supply venders with wholesale quantities, but they cannot refuse to furnish their correspondents with smaller parcels for family gardens, &c. The prices are very moderate (particularly for quantities) it being the desire to render this branch of business profitable by its great extent, and not by enhanced prices. By reference to the Catalogue, it will be seen that it comprises *a great number of new and choice varieties never before offered to the public:* it being the intention to enrich this department with the same zeal that has been devoted to others. They have also imported the finest Agricultural Seeds known in Europe.—The following form a part of their present stock of Seeds:

2500 lbs. Cabbages, comprising all the varieties.
2000 lbs. Turneps, ditto, including 800 lbs. Ruta Baga and other field Turneps.
1000 lbs. Radishes, ditto.
800 lbs. Onions, ditto.
800 lbs. Beets, ditto, including 300 lbs. Mangold Wurzel.
600 lbs. Carrot, ditto, including 200 lbs. Large Field Carrot.
300 lbs. Cucumber, ditto.
150 lbs. Lettuces, ditto.
100 lbs. Large German Asparagus.
50 Bushels Pacey's perennial Ryegrass, *very celebrated.*
25 do. Lawn Grass.
2 do. English Potatoe Oats, weighing 44 lbs. per Bushel.
20 do. Early Angus Oats, } *the finest known in*
20 do. Hopeton do. } *Europe.*
100 do. Orchard Grass.
1000 lbs. White Dutch Clover seed.
1000 lbs. Provence Luzerne, *the finest kind known.*
150 lbs. Trifolium incarnatum.
100 Bushels Canary seed, *superior quality.*
30 do. White Mustard.
6 do. Taylor's forty fold Potatoes, which is now taking precedence in England.

And proportionate quantities of all other kinds of seeds. Priced Catalogues will be forwarded to every applicant; and to venders, and those who desire to enter into the business, every information will be given relative to retailing, &c. The articles will be packed in a superior manner, and forwarded with the utmost dispatch.

Packages for Ohio, and the other Western States, can be sent during winter by way of Baltimore or Philadelphia by the Transportation Line.

N. B.—Catalogues of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, &c. will be sent to all who request them.

January 10, 1834.

MONROE GARDEN AND NURSERY,

GREECE, NEAR ROCHESTER, N. Y.

THE subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous, Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, &c.

Also, a few hundred of the Morus Multicaulis or Phillipine Mulberry, the white Italian Mulberry by the hundred or thousand, English Hawthorn Quicks, Grape Vines of both native and foreign varieties, mostly of large size, for sale by the single vine, hundred or thousand at reduced prices

The subscriber has a large Green House well filled with a large collection of choice Green-House Plants in good condition.

All orders, by mail or otherwise, will be promptly attended to, and packages delivered in Rochester or at the mouth of Genesee River.

ASA ROWE.

Orders for Mr. Rowe's Nursery received by the Publishers of this paper.

Catalogues may be had at the office of the Genesee Farmer—will be sent to those who wish them gratis. October 5, 1833. f6m